Claims

~~Cancel Claims 1-20~~

21. (Currently Amended) A method for coordinating a~~n first level~~object route directed first workflow ~~and~~ with an ~~independent~~ second ~~level~~route directed workflow separate from the first workflow, using an object step to derive the route for the second workflow from the object route for the first workflow , the method comprising:

defining a first object step with an associated first route segment, a sequence of steps to be connected to other route segments;

defining a second object step with an associated second route segment, a sequence of steps to be connected to other route segments;

defining a first ~~level~~ workflow means~~, including an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system~~, directed by an object route, a sequence of object steps;

defining a~~n independent~~ second ~~level~~workflow means~~, including a shopfloor system~~, separate, independent, and operating asynchronous from the first workflow means, ~~directed by a route, a sequence of steps~~;

defining a first object route, a sequence of object steps, including the first object step and second object step, providing conditional branches, parallel paths, and loops such that all connected object steps are included;

forming a first route from the first object route by connecting the route segments associated with each object step, including the first route segment and second route segment, in the sequence of the object steps of the first object route where the first route is separate and ~~independent of~~not connected to the first object route;

~~providing the first object route to direct the first level workflow means;~~

~~providing the first route to direct the independent second level workflow means;~~

such that the first ~~level~~workflow starts the first object route and the ~~independent~~second ~~level~~workflow starts the first route; and, the ~~independent~~second ~~level~~workflow completes the first route and the first ~~level~~workflow completes the first object route.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein a third object step with an associated ~~second~~ third route segment follows the ~~first~~ second object step in the sequence of object steps of the first object route and the ~~second~~ third route segment provides a feedback connection to the ~~first~~ second route segment in forming the first route.

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23. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein the first object step with an ~~associated fourth route segment as an alternative route segment such that either the first~~ route segment or the fourth route segment is selected when forming the first route.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein the first route segment signals the first object step when the first route segment begins directing the second ~~level~~ workflow.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein the first route segment signals the first object step when the first route segment completes directing the second ~~level~~ workflow.

26. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein the first route segment signals the first object step the number of identifiers, including barcode and Radio Frequency Identifier (RFID), read by a step in the first route segment.

27. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein the first route segment signals the first object step the net number of identifiers, including barcode and Radio ~~Frequency Identifier (RFID), read by a step in the first route segment by subtracting the~~ number of identifiers read on a feedback path from the number of identifiers read.

28. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein the first route segment ~~signals the first object step the identifier, including barcode and Radio Frequency~~ Identifier (RFID), read by a step in the first route segment.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a detailed route to direct an ~~independent~~ detailed workflow ~~, including a Shopfloor system,~~ from a abstraction route defined to direct an abstraction workflow <u>which is separate, independent, and asynchronous from the detailed workflow</u>, including an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) ~~system,~~ using an object step, the method comprising:

defining a first object step with an associated first route segment, a sequence of steps to ~~be connected to other route segments;~~
defining a second object step with an associated second route segment, a sequence of steps to be connected to other route segments;

defining a first abstraction route, a sequence of object steps including the first object step and second object step, providing conditional branches, parallel paths, and loops such that all connected object steps are included to direct an abstraction workflow to implement the abstraction level of a process;

creating a first detailed route from the first abstraction route by ~~independently~~ connecting the route segments, including the first route segment and second route segment,

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associated with each object step in the sequence of the object steps of the first abstraction route where the connection of the route steps are separate from the object steps such that the first detailed route directs the detailed workflow to implement the detailed level of the process and the first abstraction route directs the abstraction workflow to implement the abstract level of the process.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 29 wherein a third object step with an associated second third route segment follows the first second object step in the sequence of the object steps of the first abstraction route and the second third route segment provides a feedback connection to the first second route segment in forming the first detailed route.

31. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 29 wherein the first object step with an associated fourth route segment as an alternative route segment such that either the first route segment or the fourth route segment is selected when forming the first detailed route.

32. (Currently Amended) A custom using an object step for coordinating an abstraction